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matic, as, for example, in his refusal to accept as genuine the Draconian chapter of Aristotle's 'Ἀθηναίων Πολιτεία'; but in the main he appears to have weighed the evidence carefully before forming his conclusions. More extended use than he seems to have made of the work of German scholars would perhaps have been advisable, and more frequent reference to his authorities would have greatly enhanced the value of the book.

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The American Commonwealth. By JAMES BRYCE. Third edition, completely revised throughout, with additional chapters. New York and London, Macmillan & Co., 1895. — 2 vols.: xix, 724; vii, 904 pp.

In calling attention to the appearance of a third edition of so well known a work as Mr. Bryce's, it is obviously a reviewer's duty to confine himself to brief comment upon such changes as the author has thought fit to introduce. Mr. Bryce's book needs no further eulogy, and the fact that a third edition has been called for shows that American readers need little further exhortation to study with care one of the most important contributions to political science made by any publicist in recent years. One comment of a general character may, however, be permitted. Although the four new chapters that swell the second volume are excellent in themselves and were necessary to give unity to the whole work, it is to be hoped that the present limits of the two portly volumes will not be extended. Even now it is doubtful whether the admirable thoroughness of the attention given to details does not tend to obscure for the ordinary reader that even more admirable philosophical treatment of his subject which never fails Mr. Bryce. That the author himself is, however, aware of the dangers of undue expansion, seems to be proved by the fact that he has gained space by sundry omissions, chiefly in the notes and appendices.

It is only the second volume that has gained in number of pages over its counterpart of the second edition; but this increase (140) must be discounted, owing to the fact that the new pages are one line short of the old. While the first volumes seem to a casual observer to be exactly alike in chapters and pages, a closer examination shows careful revision throughout the latest edition. Space has been gained by a wise abridgment of the constitution of California given in the appendix; and Mr. Bryce has been able not

merely to bring his facts up to date, but also to prove how thoroughly he keeps posted on American affairs and on everything written about them. I have noted scarcely an omission of consequence in his bibliography, unless it be that in his chapter on "The Courts and the Constitution" he makes no reference to the late Brinton Coxe's valuable treatise, *Judicial Power and Unconstitutional Legislation*. The minuteness of the revision is well illustrated by the fact that he now omits the statement that a person who fought on the Confederate side would be an inexpedient candidate for the presidency; but the note on "gerrymander" (page 124) is still misleading as to Gerry's attitude toward the scheme to which his name has since been attached. We may now, however, pass to a brief consideration of the four new chapters, with the remark that in addition to making his book more accurate as a work of reference, the learned author has rendered such reference easier by improving his index.

The additional chapters, which all belong to Part V, are entitled respectively "The Tammany Ring in New York City," "The Home of the Nation," "The South Since the War" and "Present and Future of the Negro." The first is a model of condensed exposition; and the vividness with which Tweed and his associates stand out after a few broad strokes of characterization is a striking proof that Mr. Bryce's powers of narration are of distinguished quality from the purely literary point of view. Naturally he was able to insert only a short note on the defeat of Tammany in 1894, but this note closes with a wise and salutary warning. The second chapter is as interesting and philosophical as anything its author has given us, but the topics it opens are too broad to be discussed here. The chapters on the South and the Negro also open a field that is too wide for adequate review in this place; but as a Southern man I cannot refrain from thanking Mr. Bryce for them and commenting on them briefly.

I have nowhere seen the balance held more firmly and fairly than in the pages in which the legislation of the Reconstruction period is discussed; nor have I seen the subsequent political attitude of the South more calmly and equitably examined. While he is not blind to the evil results of slavery, Mr. Bryce sees clearly that there is now no more loyal section than the South — none that has fronted the past and is fronting the future with more faith and courage, in spite of overwhelming difficulties. In view of this sympathetic treatment of Southern conditions, Southern men should and will be glad to listen to what Mr. Bryce has to say about the dangers resulting from

the predominance for a long period of one political party and from the corrupting methods taken to maintain this predominance. He would, perhaps, have been able to accentuate the moral he teaches as to this latter particular, had he called attention to the fact that one of the most notorious cases of ballot-box stuffing on record occurred about two years ago in a primary election held by the Republican Party in one of the few Southern districts that always give that party a majority of votes.

But it is to Mr. Bryce's views on the so-called negro problem that one naturally turns with most interest. They are on the whole fair and conservative. That they are cautiously expressed was to be expected of our author; that they are not specially illuminating was to be expected from the complex nature of the problem. Mr. Bryce sees that while the political condition of the negroes may change materially for the better in fifty years, their social condition can only be slowly improved by changes of sentiment on the part of the dominant race that cannot be effected by legislation or by interference from without. He seems fully to comprehend the feeling of the whites that their political and social supremacy must be maintained at all costs and the purity of their stock be preserved from contamination. This comprehension of the basal fact in Southern conditions is due to our author's wisdom in visiting and studying the people and the section before writing about them. If his studies have not brought him much more light than has yet come to thoughtful Southerners, they have at least kept him from making rash generalizations and have taught him that the problem must be worked out by the people whom it most concerns. On the whole, then, Mr. Bryce's views on the negro question do not materially differ from those held by Southern students who have learned to emancipate themselves from prejudice and to confront with impartiality the grave problems involved. On one distressing feature of the situation he does not, however, dwell with sufficient emphasis. This is the practical abandonment of large sections of arable land in certain states to a class of small negro proprietors, who from all accounts are retrograding in their methods of cultivation and their standard of comfort. This segregating and decivilizing tendency of part of the race counterbalances much of the improvement made along industrial lines, and introduces into the problem a territorial element that complicates it greatly. More than one Southerner of an historical turn of mind has asked himself whether many features of decadent Roman agriculture may not be repro-

duced in the South, corporations taking the place of individual proprietors. But where Mr. Bryce is cautious of treading, it will never do for his reviewer to rush in.

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The American Congress. A History of National Legislation and Political Events, 1774-1895. By JOSEPH WEST MOORE. New York, Harper & Brothers, 1895. — xii, 581 pp.

The chief title of this book leads one to expect a history of the formation and development of Congress, but the sub-title is more nearly descriptive of the contents and scope of the volume. It is a political history of the United States, giving the most important events, occasionally interlarded with excerpts from speeches or with well-worn anecdotes, — some of them, I fear, apocryphal, — and now and again devoting space to the *personnel* of Congress or to brief biographical sketches. There are some indications that good books and a modicum of original matter have been used, and the work is not marred by many serious inaccuracies. The style is clear, simple and straightforward. One seeking for a brief popular account of political deeds and misdeeds, from the Stamp Act Congress to the syndicate bond issue, will find this book on the whole the best that has been written in anything like the same compass.

Yet it is neither a history of Congress nor a history of politics in the United States. Were it the former, we should find an account of the origin, growth and influence of the committee system, the change in the Senate from a *quasi* privy council to a full-fledged upper chamber, the relations between the two houses and how they have come to hold their places and to work together; we should, beyond doubt, find also some study of the development of the speaker's office — one of the most noteworthy facts in our history. But the book is nearly silent on all these subjects. There is no mention of the influence of Henry Clay in exalting the powers of his position, and one might well believe that the functions and authority of Frederick A. Muhlenberg were not far different from those of Thomas B. Reed. In other words, this volume is in no true sense a history of Congress. There are occasionally good descriptions of great days in the arena of debate, as when Hayne contended with Webster, or when Douglas, Seward and Sumner struggled over slavery in the territories.